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LABORATORY BULLETIN

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES, HELENA, MONTANA

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VIRAL DIAGNOSIS

The State Microbiology Laboratory can now offer diagnostic services for most commonly encountered viral diseases. Attached you will find an index of available services and brief instructions for collection and transportation of specimens. All services listed should be available in our laboratory by November 15; most are available now. Also forthcoming are new viral/rickettsial examination request forms which we hope will significantly reduce cost and make reporting faster. These forms should also be much simpler to fill out at the time of specimen collection.

After a nationwide search, Mr. John Williams was selected to head the Virology Section in our laboratory. Mr. Williams holds an M.S. in virology from the University of Michigan and was formerly employed as a virologist at the Massachusetts State Laboratory. It is our hope that under his direction a strong program in viral isolation and serodiagnosis will be developed for Montana. We wish to offer, either in our laboratory or by referral to CDC, those services which are needed by the state's physicians (within limits of economic feasibility and without duplication of independent laboratory services). Your suggestions are welcome.

STD WORKSHOPS

In cooperation with the Montana Medical Education and Research Foundation (MMERF) and the Montana Society for Medical Technology (MSMT), the State Microbiology Laboratory is sponsoring two CDC workshops on diagnosis of sexually transmissible diseases. The first of these workshops will be held in the Science Building, College of Great Falls on October 18 and 19. The second session (same workshop) will be held October 21 and 22 in Room 205, Lewis Hall, Montana State University, Bozeman.

These workshops will be taught by personnel from the Venereal Disease Branch of CDC's Bureau of Laboratories. Two days of continuous laboratory work will provide a basic review of laboratory procedures for isolation and identification of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (including penicillinase-producing gonococcus) and some other sexually transmissible microorganisms. Full details can be obtained by contacting Montana Medical Education and Research Foundation, P.O.Box 2829, Great Falls 59403 (453-1493) or the State Microbiology Laboratory, Helena (449-2642).

BENCH TRAINING IN BACTERIOLOGY

Bench training in bacteriology is again available at the State Laboratory. A one-week session in clinical bacteriology is available to practicing medical technologists and microbiologists in the state. Training will be suited to each student's needs, ranging from review of fundamental methods to advanced techniques in special determinative bacteriology. Training sessions are available by arrangement at a cost of $25. Contact the State Laboratory in Helena (449-2642) for details.

REDUCTION OF MAILING LIST

To reduce the cost of circulating this bulletin, all out-of-state addresses will subsequently be deleted from our mailing list. If you are part of our out-of-state circulation and wish to continue receiving the bulletin, return your address label to us and we will continue to supply you with bulletins.

SUPERVISOR, CLINICAL BACTERIOLOGY

Douglas O. Abbott, Ph.D. has been appointed Supervisor of the Clinical Bacteriology Section of the State Laboratory. Dr. Abbott will supervise special determinative bacteriology, gonorrhea screening, *Streptococcus* screening and reference enterobacteriology. He will also be involved in training and consultation for local laboratories. We are pleased to have Dr. Abbott on our staff and hope that you will feel free to contact him if he can be of service to you.